(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने देश में इस संबंध में वाहनों की अधिकतम जीवनावधि निर्धारित करने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव तैयार किया है ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो प्रत्येक वाहन के मामले में कितनी जीवनावधि निर्धारित करने का विचार है तथा उन वाहनों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर) : (क) तथा (ख) पुराने मोटर वाहनों के प्रचालन के कारण हुई सड़क दुर्घटनाओं के बारे में कोई आंकड़े एकत्र नहीं किए जाते हैं। सड़क दुर्घटनाओं के संबंध में किए गए विभिन्न अध्ययनों से मालूम होता है कि 2.6 प्रतिशत दुर्घटनायें मोटर वाहनों की यांत्रिक खराबी के कारण होती हैं जो नए अथवा पुराने दोनों हो सकते हैं।

(ग) जी नहीं।

(घ) जी नहीं।

(ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Proposal to run more tourist buses in the country

4684. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Government road transport, plied daily, touching every State in India;

(b) whether the Central Government contemplate to run tourist buses in largs numbers, in order to nave more cultural and social contacts with other States; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider the same, having in mind the National integration by day to day contacts of various States' residents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to boost social and cultural tourism, the Department of Tourism, Government of India has undertaken the following measures to facilitate plying of tourist vehicles in India:—

(i) Recognition to the private sector under the Scheme for Tourist Transport Operators, Tour Operators and Travel Agencies on an All India basis to ply tourist vehicles in India.

(ii) In consultation with the Ministry of Finance, the import of air-conditioned cars and coaches has been allowed under a concessional rate of customs duty to specified importers i.e. Tour operators, Tourist Transport Operators, Travel Agencies recognised by the Department of Tourism, Government of India and also State Tourism Corporations.

Further, the All India Permit for tourist Transport Operators Rules, 1993 have been framed under the Motor Vehicles Act to rationalise inter-State movement of tourist vehicles in India.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Repair of Highways and Roads in Tamil Nadu

4685. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has sought financial assistance from the World Bank for the repair of damaged highways and roads in various districts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide financial assistance to Tamil Nadu for the said purpose, and

(d) if so, by when the financial assistance is likely to be provided.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Government of Tamil Nadu has sought assistance of World Bank for upgrading the State road network to manage the growing traffic intensity besides reconstructing and rehabilitating the distressed bridges and culverts. The estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 880 crores. The exact amount of World Bank funding may be known only after the components to be included in the project are identified on completion of strategic option study.

(d) It is too early to indicate the time at this stage.

Appointment of agents by SCI

4686. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agents appointed by the Shipping Corporation of India all over the country and the details thereof;

(b) what are the guidelines the Corporation has fixed for appointment of these agents, and since when these agents have been operating at various ports;

(c) whether there is any proposal to appoint additional agents for any of the ports, in view of the increased exports and imports, and to encourage young entrepreneurs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Shipping Corporation of India has appointed 10 agents at various Indian ports, viz. Gujarat, Karwar, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port, Pondicherry, Mangalore, Cochin, Kakinada, Nagapattnam, Masulipatnam, Allepey, Quilon, Tuticorin, Calicut, Tellicharry, Rameshwaram, Vizag & Cuddalore. Besides, SCI has also appointed agents at some Inland Container Depots (ICDs).

(b) SCI contacts some reputable agency houses for the appointment of agents. The factors which are considered for appointment as agents are sound financial position professional expertise, experience, cargo generating/handling capacity, manpower, availability of physical infrastructure, etc. The existing 10 agents were appointed by SCI from time to time since 1961.

(c) and (d) The appointment of agents by SCI is a continuous process, depending on the trade-patterns.

Letters written by M.Ps to the Ministry of Surface Transport

4687. SHRI MOHAMMAD AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies, respectively?